

News Release

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REVISED RENEWABLE WASTE-TO-ENERGY AGREEMENT ALLOWS PROJECT TO MOVE FORWARD SEEKING REPLACEMENT PARTNER

FREDERICK, MD – Following prior approval by the Frederick Board of County Commissioners, the Board of Directors of the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority ("Authority") this evening approved a revised memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Frederick Board and Carroll Board of County Commissioners regarding the waste-to-energy (WTE) facility project and an amendment to the service contract with Wheelabrator Technologies Inc., which releases Carroll County from the project.

The revised MOU allows the Authority to actively pursue a replacement partner for this important renewable energy project that promises to provide a long-term waste management solution for Frederick County, create hundreds of local jobs and bring millions of dollars in spending on local goods and services. The revised MOU allows Carroll County to exit the project, thereby clearing the way for a new partner.

"We are very pleased that our staff was instrumental in bringing this issue to a satisfactory conclusion for Carroll County, while at the same time preserving Frederick County's option to proceed with the project when a replacement for Carroll County is found, and if no replacement partner is found, Frederick County can exit the project at no cost.

"We have supported the concept of building a regional WTE facility so our residents have a safe, reliable and cost-effective waste disposal solution right here in Frederick County, eliminating our need to rely on other jurisdictions to accept our waste. This local solution will also keep our waste disposal dollars in Frederick," said President Blaine Young of the Frederick Board of County Commissioners.

Authority Executive Director Chris Skaggs said, "With all major state permits and local planning approvals in hand, we are already in discussions with major parties interested in a long-term environmental solution to their post-recycled waste needs. This agreement removes an obstacle to the participation by other parties, and we will be working diligently with the county to reach a successful conclusion."

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Frederick County Special Projects Manager Michael Marschner commented, "This regional project represents the best long-term solution for the county and allows the Authority to find a new partner so that the project can successfully move forward. Once a partner is secured, the project will be reviewed to determine its continued financial viability. Should the project economics at that time not appear viable, and if the project is cancelled, the contract termination penalty for Frederick County will be paid by the Authority."

For the last few months, Mr. Marschner and the Frederick County Attorney's Office have been working with Authority and Carroll County staff to preserve this important project's ability to move forward with a replacement partner by allowing Carroll County to withdraw.

The agreement provides for Carroll County to pay Wheelabrator one million dollars and relieves Wheelabrator of a monthly management fee.

"Wheelabrator believes that this amendment is in the best interest of the future development of the project," said William Roberts, vice president of operations for Wheelabrator Technologies. "We are very pleased that the project partners are now free to move expeditiously to bring this renewable energy project to fruition."

To view a newly produced video that highlights local benefits of the Frederick County waste-to-energy project, visit the "Frederick County, MD" YouTube webpage at www.tinyurl.com/WTEbenefitsvideo.

For more information on the Frederick County waste-to-energy project, visit www.nmwda.org/frederick.

For additional information, contact Authority Executive Director Chris Skaggs at 410-333-2730 or via e-mail at authority@nmwda.org.

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